
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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**SENATOR GREGG CALLS ON LEADERS OF ENERGY CONFERENCE TO
ADDRESS MTBE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN FINAL ENERGY REPORT**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today called on the Chairmen of the Energy Conference to address concerns he has regarding the fuel additive Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether in the Energy Policy Act of 2003 currently being crafted by the Conference. Senator Gregg voiced his support for a permanent ban on the use of MTBE and urged the Conference not to create blanket liability protections for manufacturers of MTBE.

In a letter to U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) and U.S. Representative Billy Tauzin (R-LA), Senator Gregg stated, "New Hampshire has serious groundwater contamination problems associated with MTBE. This problem is compounded since the state relies heavily on groundwater as a source of drinking water. The full extent of statewide contamination is not yet known. For this reason, I am encouraging you to adopt language that was included in the Senate bill which bans the use of MTBE as a fuel additive.

"Furthermore, I have grave concerns regarding provisions in the House Energy bill which provide liability protections to MTBE manufacturers. These so called 'safe harbor' provisions will limit the ability of the State of New Hampshire to seek recovery from those potentially liable for pervasive contamination of New Hampshire's groundwaters. Public funds will not be adequate to address this problem. The burdensome cost of cleanup, under this provision, will be on the state and its citizens, rather than on those polluters who actually caused the problem. It is inherently unfair to shield an entire industry from potential claims for damages resulting from the manufacture and sale of its product. I encourage you to adopt provisions which ban the use of MTBE, and dismiss the MTBE 'safe harbor' provisions in the final Conference Report."

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